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Date: May 20, 2008

Patent 0-06-112 - 16290/US/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Bar-Yaakov et al.
Serial no.: 10/580,661
I.A. Filed: December 2, 2004
Title: FLAME RETARDANT ADDITIVE OF FLUOROPOLYMERS
IN FLAME RETARDANTS
Examiner: Nicole M. Buie
Art Unit: 4145

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

Response to Restriction Requirement

This response is in reply to the office action mailed on April 29, 2008.

Claims amendments

1. The amendments shown on the attached marked-up pages address the Examiner's request for election, and further they correct minor formal errors while defining the invention more clearly. The amendments are supported in the specification.

An important feature of the composition of the invention is its structure resulting from dispersal of fluoropolymers in molten retardant or a precursor thereof; the resulting composition has desired homogeneity and is ready for use in thermoplastic compositions as anti-dripping and flame retardant agent. The feature of "solidified molten suspension of a fluoropolymer evenly dispersed in a flame retardant" is supported, for example, in the third paragraph on page 6 (Par. [0017] of the publication), the paragraph bridging pages 11-12 (Par. [0032]), the paragraph bridging pages 12-13 (Par. [0037]), Examples 3 (Par. [0043]), etc.

Election/Restriction

2. In order to comply with the Examiner's request for election/restriction, it is confirmed that Group I, as defined by the Examiner, comprising claims 1-13 and claims 25-31, is now elected with traverse.

Novelty and non-obviousness

3. In response to the Examiner's statement that Kitahara (US 6,503,988) discloses compositions similar to those claimed in the instant application, Examiner's kind attention is directed to the following facts.

Kitahara relates to PTFE fine powder, and further enriches the art of making and using fine PTFE powders as reviewed in the instant Background of the Invention (see, for example, the last paragraph on page 1, publication Par. [0003]). However, as explained in said Background, such powders suffer from certain drawbacks during certain applications, and the instant invention solves the problems by embedding PTFE particles within a flame retardant polymer. The PTFE and the flame retardant are mixed together by known techniques in Kitahara, but Kitahara does not teach dispersing PTFE in the molten flame retardants. It is believed that a skilled person would not have been inspired by Kitahara's teaching to homogeneously disperse PTFE powder in a molten flame retardant resin.

The composition of the present application comprises a fluoropolymer evenly dispersed in flame retardant, wherein both physical consistency and chemical composition of the instant composition contribute to higher homogeneity and better chemical properties of the final host matrix, when compared to a blend according to prior art.

Conclusion

4. In view of the above amendments and explanations, it is believed the amended claims are allowable, and further that it will be possible to add other claims of Groups defined by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted



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